

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06160 021432Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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P 021415Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4044

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: USTJC, BEXP EINV EAID TS

SUBJECT: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: DATES AND LEVEL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY RECEIVED ME THIS MORNING AT HIS CARTHAGE HOME. I APOLOGIZED TO HIM FOR BEING A FEW MINUTES LATE HAVING BEEN DETAINED AT MINISTRY OF PLAN FOR DISCUSSION ON AGENDA OF US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS. CHATTY ASKED WHETHER WASHINGTON HAD YET SET A DATE FOR CONVENING. I TOLD HIM NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED BUT INFORMAL INDICATION TLP Y TTC ITVT WAS LIKELY TO BE TOWARD END OF OCTOBER 5-20 PERIOD HE HAD EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR.

2. CHATTY SAID HE WAS EMBARRASSED TO TELL ME THAT, AFTER TWO FIXED DATES HAD HAD TO BE CANCELED FOR VISIT HERE BY IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HE HAD JUST BEEN OBLIGED TO SURRENDER THREE DAYS: OCTOBER 12, 13 AND 14. IF NECESSARY HE COULD FLY BACK TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 15, BUT HIS PREFERENCE NOW WOULD BE FOR A DATE BETWEEN OCTOBER 5 AND 12. I TOLD HIM I WAS NOT SURE HOW THIS WOULD FIT INTO WASHINGTON'S CALENDAR BUT I WOULD REGISTER HIS CURRENT PREFERENCE AT ONCE.

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06160 021432Z

3. CHATTY ASKED WHETHER I FELT AN OCTOBER DATE --
ON EVE OF ELECTION -- WAS SUITABLE. I TOLD HIM
I VERY MUCH HOPED WE COULD STICK TO AN OCTOBER DATE,
BECAUSE, WHETHER THERE WAS CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIONS
OR NOT, IT MIGHT BE WELL INTO 1977 BEFORE NEW DATES
FOR A JOINT COMMISSION COULD BE AGREED UPON. HE
SEEMED SATISFIED.

4. ACTION: IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO ACCOMMODATE
THIS FRAIL, OVERWORKED BUT VALABLE FRIEND I STRONGLY
RECOMMEND WE GEAR OURSELVES UP FOR A JOINT COMMISSION
MEETING BETWEEN OCTOBER 5 AND 12. HOLDING THE
OPENING SESSION AS LATE AS OCTOBER 11 WOULD BE
SATISFACTORY. IF WE WANT CHATTY PRESENT AND FEEL
OBLIGED TO CHOOSE A LATER OCTOBER DATE, I RECOMMEND
MEETING OCTOBER 18, 19, OR 20.
MULCAHY

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